REMARKS

The final Office Action dated May 13, 2009 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-12, 14-22, and 24-31, and 33 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-12, 14-22, 24-31, and 33 stand rejected.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 7-12, 14-22, 24-31, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement is respectfully traversed.

With respect to Claims 1, 3-5, 7-12, 14-22, 24-31, and 33, the Examiner alleges that a "device information table" in the feature "the commands specific to at least one appliance obtained from a device information table" recited in Claims 1, 3-5, 7-12, 14-22, 24-31, and 33, is not described in the specification in any particular way in order to enable one skilled in the art to be able to obtain any sort of data from the "table." Applicants respectfully disagree.

In the present application, Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the present invention, including the recitation of obtaining commands specific to at least one appliance from a device information table after reading the specification, in view of the figures. In particular, paragraph [0062] of Applicants' specification describes:

> In an alternative embodiment the service application may run on a remote system that has a communications link to the diagnostic interface 640. The user selects the appropriate command (e.g., Dishwasher START) 402 within the service application. The diagnostic interface 640, through the service application, will then interpret the command and obtain the machine specific command from the device information table 404. Once the appropriate command has been obtained (406) from the table 404, the

diagnostic interface 640 will generate (408) a message packet including the machine command, and device address.

That is, the device information table includes machine commands specific to each machine. Thus, when a user requests a particular command, such as "START," the device information table is accessed to determine the machine specific command for the command "START." This machine specific command is then sent via a message packet generated from the diagnostic interface. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that a device information table and an implementation of such a table is described in sufficient detail such that one skilled in the art, upon reading the specification in light of the figures, would be enabled to make and use Applicants' invention.

The Examiner also alleges that Claims 1, 3-5, 7-12, 14-22, 24-31, and 33 recite diagnostic software such that only authorized access is permitted to at least one superuser–level function, however, the Examiner alleges that it is unclear what "authorization" process occurs and with respect to what specific element or user. Independent Claims 1, 12, and 22 have been amended to further define the authorization process and to address the issues raised in the Office Action.

Further, the Examiner alleges that it is unclear as to what is involved in the diagnostic interface being initiated in the feature "initiating a diagnostic interface," as recited in Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-11. The Examiner also alleges it is unclear how a hardware device can be initiated in terms of a method step. While the Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's allegation, Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to remove the feature of "initiating a diagnostic interface" to further prosecution.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' specification satisfy the requirements of Section 112, first paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Section 112 rejection to Claims 1, 3-5, 7-12, 14-22, 24-31, and 33 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 7-12, 14-22, 24-31, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,875,430 to Koether (hereinafter referred to as "Koether") in view of U.S. Patent 4,580,276 to Andruzzi, Jr., et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Andruzzi") is respectfully traversed.

Koether describes a bi-directional communication system (100) that provides real-time computer-aided diagnostics, asset history, accounting records, maintenance records, and energy management to ensure proper work allocation of administrative and repair tasks in the food service industry. The system (100) includes a control center (170), a plurality of kitchen base stations (150) connected to the control center (170), and a plurality of kitchen or cooking appliances (110) connected to a base station (150) located within a corresponding site or cell (105). Maintenance and/or repair, once initialized, are monitored through the control center (170), which includes a database (190) with software diagnostics, accounting records, inventory records, and maintenance records for the particular appliance (110) under service. Upon effecting repair, control center (170) prepares and transmits at block (770) an appropriate invoice. The subscriber or an authorized person thereof then enters a security password or code, such as a personal identification number (PIN) authorizing funds to be transferred from the subscriber's institution to the service agency that performed the repair or maintenance. Notably, Koether does not describe or suggest receiving a first level authorization to access at least one appliance from a diagnostic interface, accessing the at least one appliance via the diagnostic interface, receiving a request to perform a service diagnosis of the at least one appliance through the diagnostic interface, determining if the request to perform the service diagnosis requires access to at least one superuser-level function, and requesting a second level of authorization to access the at least one superuser-level function if it is determined that the request to perform the service diagnosis requires access to the at least one superuser-level function.

Andruzzi describes an amplitude-shift keying/frequency-shift keying (ASK/FSK) data encoding and transmission scheme. In a particular embodiment, Andruzzi describes the transmission scheme functioning along the lines of a common power-line carrier system. Data is

exchanged in a bidirectional fashion (half-duplex) within a localized transmission medium defined by the electrical distribution system (metallic conductors) of a building, house, or any localized residential/commercial complex. Notably, Andruzzi does not describe or suggest receiving a first level authorization to access at least one appliance from a diagnostic interface, accessing the at least one appliance via the diagnostic interface, receiving a request to perform a service diagnosis of the at least one appliance through the diagnostic interface, determining if the request to perform the service diagnosis requires access to at least one superuser-level function, and requesting a second level of authorization to access the at least one superuser-level function if it is determined that the request to perform the service diagnosis requires access to the at least one superuser-level function.

Claim 1 recites a method of performing service diagnostics on appliances. The method includes "receiving a first level authorization to access at least one appliance from a diagnostic interface; accessing the at least one appliance via the diagnostic interface; receiving a request to perform a service diagnosis of the at least one appliance through the diagnostic interface; determining if the request to perform the service diagnosis requires access to at least one superuser-level function; requesting a second level of authorization to access the at least one superuser-level function if it is determined that the request to perform the service diagnosis requires access to the at least one superuser-level function; performing a service diagnosis of the at least one appliance through the diagnostic interface using commands specific to the at least one appliance, the commands specific to the at least one appliance obtained from a device information table; implementing the diagnostic interface within a single device including a display, processing circuitry programmed with diagnostic software such that only second level authorization access is permitted to the at least one superuser-level function and generating service commands to perform the service diagnosis; and servicing, by the diagnostic interface, the at least one appliance, said servicing comprising at least one of adjusting a characteristic of the at least one appliance and displaying to a technician the service diagnosis."

No combination of Koether and Andruzzi describes or suggests a method of performing service diagnostics on appliances, as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, no combination of Koether and Andruzzi describes or suggests a method of performing service diagnostics on appliances that includes receiving a first level authorization to access at least one appliance from a diagnostic interface, accessing the at least one appliance via the diagnostic interface, receiving a request to perform a service diagnosis of the at least one appliance through the diagnostic interface, determining if the request to perform the service diagnosis requires access to at least one superuser-level function, and requesting a second level of authorization to access the at least one superuser-level function if it is determined that the request to perform the service diagnosis requires access to the at least one superuser-level function. Rather, Koether describes that an authorized person may enter a security password or code, such as a personal identification number (PIN), authorizing funds to be transferred from a subscriber's institution to a service agency that performed a repair or maintenance, and Andruzzi merely describes a transmission scheme wherein data is exchanged in a bidirectional fashion (half-duplex) within a localized transmission medium.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Koether in view of Andruzzi.

Claims 3-5, 7-11, 30, and 31 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 3-5, 7-11, 30, and 31 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 3-5, 7-11, 30, and 31 likewise are patentable over Koether in view of Andruzzi.

Claim 12 recites a diagnostic interface for performing service diagnostics on appliances. The diagnostic interface includes "a display for viewing diagnostic and service information; processing circuitry programmed with diagnostic software such that only a heightened level of authorized access is permitted to access at least one superuser-level function and for generating service commands for an appliance; and a serial communication bus coupling said processing

circuitry to a power line carrier communication interface configured to be directly connected to a plurality of appliances, wherein said power line carrier communication interface facilitates receiving authorization to access the at least one appliance from said diagnostic interface, receiving a request to perform a service diagnosis of the at least one appliance through said diagnostic interface, determining if the request to perform the service diagnosis requires access to at least one superuser-level function, requesting the heightened level of authorization to access the at least one superuser-level function if it is determined that the request to perform the service diagnosis requires access to the at least one superuser-level function and transmitting the service commands to the plurality of appliances and receiving appliance diagnostic results on a power line carrier communication system, said diagnostic interface implemented within a single device including said display, said processing circuitry generating the service commands to service at least one appliance of the plurality of appliances, the service commands being specific to the at least one appliance and obtained by said processing circuitry from a device information table, and said power line communication interface is configured to modulate data to communicate the data over an alternating current (AC) power line, wherein said diagnostic interface configured to service the at least one appliance via said power line carrier communication interface by at least one of adjusting a characteristic of the at least one appliance and displaying to a technician the appliance diagnostic results."

No combination of Koether and Andruzzi describes or suggests a diagnostic interface, as recited in Claim 12. More specifically, no combination of Koether and Andruzzi describes or suggests a diagnostic interface that includes a serial communication bus coupling a processing circuitry to a power line carrier communication interface configured to be directly connected to a plurality of appliances, wherein the power line carrier communication interface facilitates receiving authorization to access at least one appliance from the diagnostic interface, receiving a request to perform a service diagnosis of the at least one appliance through the diagnostic interface, determining if the request to perform the service diagnosis requires access to at least one superuser-level function, requesting a second level of authorization to access the at least one

superuser-level function if it is determined that the request to perform the service diagnosis requires access to the at least one superuser-level function, and transmitting the service commands to the plurality of appliances and receiving appliance diagnostic results on a power line carrier communication system. Rather, Koether describes that an authorized person may enter a security password or code, such as a personal identification number (PIN), authorizing funds to be transferred from a subscriber's institution to a service agency that performed a repair or maintenance, and Andruzzi merely describes a transmission scheme wherein data is exchanged in a bidirectional fashion (half-duplex) within a localized transmission medium.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 12 is submitted to be patentable over Koether in view of Andruzzi.

Claims 14-21 depend from independent Claim 12. When the recitations of Claims 14-21 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 12, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 14-21 likewise are patentable over Koether in view of Andruzzi.

Claim 22 recites a diagnostic system for providing access to service diagnostics on an appliance. The diagnostic system includes "a plurality of appliances; a diagnostic interface configured to be directly connected to said plurality of appliances, said diagnostic interface comprising a display, wherein said diagnostic interface facilitates accepting service diagnostics commands destined for at least one appliance of said plurality of appliances, the service diagnostics commands specific to said at least one appliance and obtained by said diagnostic interface from a device information table, a microprocessor programmed to permit a first level of authorized access to one of perform a service diagnosis of the at least one appliance and to permit a second level of authorized access to at least one superuser-level function and to generate the service diagnostics commands, said diagnostic interface configured to service said plurality of appliances by at least one of adjusting a characteristic of at least one appliance and displaying to a technician the diagnostics commands; and a dedicated appliance controller for receiving and executing the service diagnostics commands."

No combination of Koether and Andruzzi describes or suggests a diagnostic system for providing access to service diagnostics on an appliance, as recited in Claim 22. More specifically, no combination of Koether and Andruzzi describes or suggests a diagnostic system that includes a microprocessor programmed to permit a first level of authorized access to perform a service diagnosis of the at least one appliance and/or to permit a second level of authorized access to at least one superuser-level function and to generate service diagnostics commands. Rather, Koether describes that an authorized person may enter a security password or code, such as a personal identification number (PIN), authorizing funds to be transferred from a subscriber's institution to a service agency that performed a repair or maintenance, and Andruzzi merely describes a transmission scheme wherein data is exchanged in a bidirectional fashion (half-duplex) within a localized transmission medium.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 22 is submitted to be patentable over Koether in view of Andruzzi.

Claims 24-29, and 33 depend from independent Claim 22. When the recitations of Claims 24-29, and 33 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 22, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 24-29, and 33 likewise are patentable over Koether in view of Andruzzi.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 7-12, 14-22, 24-31, and 33 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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